

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 SAM-01 EUR-12 /076 W

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R 121501Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 012

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, PK, IT, PLO

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL SARG SPOKESMAN DENOUNCES ATTACKS ON SYRIAN
EMBASSIES IN ROME AND ISLAMABAD

1. OCTOBER 12 MEDIA STRESSED STATEMENT BY OFFICAL SPOKESMAN
DENOUNCING ATTACKS PREVIOUS DAY IN ROME AND ISLAMABAD. STATE-
MENT NOTED THESE WERE LATESTIN SERIES OF ATTACKS ALSO AIMED
AT SYRIAN AIRLINES OFFICES AND AT SEMIRAMIS HOTEL. SPOKESMAN
PLEDGED THAT "GANGS OF CRIMINALS" WHO LAUNCHING INCIDENTS WILL
MEET WITH "DECISIVE REPLY." STATEMENT REASSERTED THAT SYRIA
WAS "BULWARK OF PALESTINIAN CAUSE" AND CHARGED THAT "DEVIATORS
AND HIRED HANDS HAD BECOME DIRTY TOOLS EMPLOYED
RY ENEMIES OF OUR PEOPLE WHO WANT TO DESTROY EVERYTHING BUILT
BY PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION." STATEMENT MADE NUMBER OF REFERENCES
TO HARM TO WHICH SYRIANS BEING EXPOSTE. STATEMENT PLEDGED
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EFFORTS BY SARG TO WIPE OUT CONSPIRACY AGAINST SYRIA AND

PALESTINIAN CAUSE.

2. EDITORIAL ON FRONT PAGE OF AL-BAATH LAID BLAME FOR ATTACK ON IRAQ CHARGING THAT "RULERS OF IRAQ ARE NOT YET CONVINCED THAT A CRIME CANNOT BE COUNTED AS A VICTORY, ESPECIALLY CRIMES OF THE SORT PERPETRATED BY THE IRAQI REGIME AGAINST OUR EMBASSIES IN ROME AND ISLAMABAD." EDITORIALHTDDED THAT SYRIA WOULD NOT STOOP TO RETALIATING IN KIND OUT OF CONCERN FOR ITS NATIONAL REPUTATION AND AWARENESS THAT SUCH OPERATIONS COST THE ARAB'S SUPPORT IN WORLD PUBLIC OPINION AND EVEN RESPECT AMONG ARAB MASSES.

3. COMMENT: VOCIFEROUS RESPONSE BY OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN REFLECTS SARG FRUSTRATION THAT THESE ATTACKS HAVE PUBLICLY CAST SUSPICION UPON SYRIA'S PRO-PALESTINIAN CREDENTIALS.
MURPHY

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